

Library Bond Act Grant Applications - Cycle 1

Office of Library Construction Findings

Project Name [Number]	Visalia Library Remodel & Expansion 1060	Current Square Footage	42,970
Applicant	Tulare, County of	Project Square Footage	45,192
Operating Library Jurisdiction	Tulare County Free Library	Service Area Population:	91,565
Project Type	Remodel and Expansion	Anticipated Construction Start Date:	6/1/2004
Project Priority	2nd	Total Project Amount	\$5,274,971
Joint Use Type	N/A	State Grant Amount	\$3,426,131
Multipurpose?	NO		
Leased Site:	NO		

Bond Act Factors [California Code of Regulations Title 5, Section 19998 (a)]

	Rated	Other
Needs of urban and rural areas:		[see map]
Population growth:		232%
Financial capacity of applicant to open and maintain operation of the library (new libraries only):		N / A
Age and condition of existing library:	Poor Condition (= Very Good)	
Inadequacy of the existing library in meeting needs of residents and the response of proposed project to meeting the needs:	Very Good	
Plan of Service integrates appropriate electronic technology:	Acceptable	
Appropriateness of proposed site for the proposed project:	Very Good	
Overall Rating:		Very Good

Summary of Review Panel Comments

Population Growth 231.8%

Age and Condition The current library is 2 separate buildings - one built in 1936, one in 1976. The proposed project involves renovating two buildings, which are connected by a covered courtyard. The oldest of the facilities was built in 1936 and is currently used to store library materials. Its major deficiencies include: presence of hazardous materials (i.e., mold, asbestos, and lead paint); the need to enhance load bearing strength; seismic retrofit; non-compliance with ADA codes; inadequate lighting; roof at the end of its lifecycle. The second facility, built in 1976, currently serves as the public library. Major deficiencies include: inefficient HVAC system; inadequate lighting; non-compliance with ADA codes; inadequate acoustical control; inadequate space for all services and functions. The feasibility study, which is less than a half-page in length, indicates that the project is feasible.

Needs of residents/response of proposed project to needs The needs assessment process included input from the residents through a variety of methods beginning in 1999. Input methods included focus groups of residents and library staff; customer service survey; and a survey of special interest groups in the community.

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The plan of service responds the needs assessment findings and includes specific and clearly written goals, objectives, and service indicators. The eight needs identified are currently being addressed but lack of funding, staffing, and space inhibit their development to the extent they are needed by the community. The plan includes provision of separate areas for both children and young adults, a computer center, business and career services, Spanish language materials and literacy program spaces.

The building program provides for the basic spaces required by the plan of service, but descriptions of areas and spaces are cursory at best and contain no listing of furnishings and equipment to be located there or the spatial relationships to other areas. There is a single-page spatial relationship graphic. There is a master list of furnishings and equipment, but there is no indication of the location for the pieces.

The conceptual plans adequately incorporate the requirements of the building program. Programmed and actual square footages, including non-assignable, match almost exactly.

Joint use agreement: **N/A**

Plan of Service Integrates Appropriate Technology The importance of technology to the provision of public library services is evident in the planning documents, but the implementation of technology applications is hampered by lack of available funds. Gates grants have been used to provide Internet access and a computer lab. Access to a Web-based library catalog and to the Internet and basic electronic resources will be available and expanded as funding becomes available. Computer training is a basic need and will be greatly expanded with the completion of the proposed project.

Appropriateness of Proposed Site This renovation/expansion project involves two buildings that are connected via a covered courtyard. The two buildings will be joined to form a single building, encompassing the space that is currently the courtyard. The library is located in the historic downtown district, in close proximity to the major east/west and north/south thoroughfares. The site is accessible by public and private transportation, by bicycle, and by foot. The site size is adequate to accommodate the proposed project. The library has occupied the site since 1936.

Financial Capacity The applicant has committed to the on-going operation of the completed library.